

GWSA Implementation Advisory Committee (IAC)

June 26, 2018

2:00PM – 4:00PM

100 Cambridge Street, Boston, 2nd Floor, Conference Room C/D

Draft Meeting Minutes

Hong-Hanh Chu welcomed the IAC members and designees, explaining that Assistant Secretary Katie Theoharides had last minute scheduling conflicts and will join the second half of the meeting. The meeting was called to order at 2:05 PM.

Updates

Joanna Troy:

- Modeling and analyses for the Comprehensive Energy Plan are ongoing.
- Three stakeholder meetings on the Comprehensive Energy Plan are being scheduled for July 2018, taking place at different locations in Massachusetts. Written comments are accepted following the stakeholder meetings.

Hong-Hanh Chu

- The US Climate Alliance is organizing a Natural and Working Land Learning Lab in July 2018. Massachusetts is be represented by 4 state staff as well as 2 non-state employee partners. The goal of the Learn Lab is to help each state develop an action matrix to identify the most promising natural working land practices and locations within their state, matching policy and finance levers for each practice, and key stakeholders and action steps to move these concepts forward.

Presentation and discussion on new land-use/land-cover data product (slides #3-14)

Kurt Gaertner introduced the joint effort by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and MassGIS to produce a mapping product that provide baseline information on land-based carbon, and, once updated every other year, can also inform the outcomes of policies on development and land-based carbon flux. Neil MacGaffey gave an overview of a new mapping product by NOAA and MassGIS that combines land cover classifications for Massachusetts in 2016 with land use data from state-wide standardized Level 3 parcel mapping. The combined land cover/use product will be available in the Fall of 2018.

A summary of the discussion:

- Greenhouse gas emissions and reduction from land cover/use changes can be derived by multiplying each land cover/use with an emissions factor associated with that land cover/use type and comparing the change over time. Abt Associates' consultant team provided the emissions factors in 2015 for a number of land cover/use types across Massachusetts.

- The combined land cover/use product can also inform the impact of development on transportation sector emissions by showing the location of residential buildings in relation to commercial areas, places of employment, public transit stops, and bike and pedestrian facilities.
- The combined land cover/use product can also be used in various ways, one of which could include identifying ideal project locations to minimize negative impact and/or maximize positive impact on land-based carbon.
- The Executive Office of Public Safety and Security leveraged 911 emergency response funding to require municipalities to adopt the standardized level 3 parcel mapping standard update their maps. All municipalities have done so except for Boston. Maintaining standardized mapping in assessing databases is now generally accepted.

Report out by Land Use and Nature-Based Solutions working group (slides #15-31)

Steve Long presented background information on land use and nature-based solutions and their role in helping the Commonwealth achieve greenhouse gas reduction targets. His presentation also identified some initial policy opportunities for EEA to consider, though the working group will fine tune the policy list into recommendations in the near future.

A summary of the discussion:

- Housing and zoning policies are important drivers of land use change and should be included as part of land use and nature-based solutions. Also important is quantifying greenhouse gas emissions from land use activities and policies.
- Land conservation has 4 times the return-on-investment according to [an analysis](#) by the Trust for Public Land in 2013 that compared the state's investment with the economic value of the natural goods and services provided by conservation lands.
- Massachusetts participates in the U.S. Climate Alliance's Natural and Working Land Initiative, which includes discussions of regional collaboration on land-sector carbon mitigation and sequestration. Accounting methodology remains a challenge but one that the Alliance seeks to address.

Process and protocol for future IAC and working group meetings

Assistant Secretary Katie Theoharides called for a vote to approve the meeting minutes of May 9, 2018. A motion was made by Austin Blackmon with a second by Jack Clarke to approve the meeting minutes. The vote to approve was unanimous of those present.

Summary of discussion on the revised IAC guidance document and request for remote access of IAC meetings:

- The lead of each working group is delegated the authority by the full IAC to convene meetings and discuss policy recommendations with a sub-quorum, and to report back. The full IAC must debate before formally recommending policies.
- State staff participation in working group meetings is allowed as needed but not required.

- Questions and comments from the audience at IAC meetings are allowed if time permits.
- The Attorney General Office prefers in-person attendance but allows remote participation if there's a good reason. A number of IAC members prefers remote participation by phone only.

Assistant Secretary Theoharides called for a vote to allow IAC members and designees the option to participate in IAC meetings by phone. A motion was made by Steve Long with a second by Sandy Taft to allow remote participation by IAC members and designees. The vote was unanimous of those present. The IAC guidance document will be updated to include guidance on remote participation.

Discussion on scope & content for 10-Year Progress Report (slides #32-35)

Hong-Hanh Chu provided a brief overview of the GWSA requirements for the progress report and the scope of the 5-Year Progress Report in 2013.

Summary of IAC feedback on what the scope and content of the 10 Year Progress Report should include:

- Legislations that have passed, including Energy Diversity Act of 2016 and Environmental Bond Bill
- Executive Order 569
- 3(d) regulations, new MassDEP programs for short lived climate pollutants, DPU orders
- Energy efficiency plans
- MassCEC programs
- Transportation sector: not much progress, freight emissions
- Consumer costs
- Coordination with Comprehensive Energy Plan and other modeling efforts including Carbon Free Boston
- Federal actions on climate goals
- Regional cooperation and initiatives, including TCI and US Climate Alliance
- MVP program and municipality work
- Adaptation work since 2013

Report development process: Draft of the Table of Contents will be available this summer, initial draft to Assistant Secretary Theoharides by September, draft for IAC feedback by late Fall.

Meeting was adjourned at 4:05 PM.

IAC Member/Designee in attendance

Organization	Name
A Better City (ABC)	Kathryn Carlson
Boston University	<i>(absent)</i>
City of Boston	Austin Blackmon
Conservation Law Foundation (CLF)	<i>(absent)</i>
Environmental Entrepreneurs (E2)	Sarah Simon
Environmental League of Massachusetts (ELM)	Eric Wilkinson
Fraunhofer Center for Sustainable Energy Systems (CSE)	<i>(absent)</i>
Mass Audubon	Jack Clarke
Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT)	Mark Staples
Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC)	Rebecca Davis
National Grid	Alexander “Sandy” Taft
Northeast Clean Energy Council (NECEC)	Peter Rothstein
The Nature Conservancy (TNC)	Steve Long
Union of Concerned Scientists (UCS)	Daniel Gatti
Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute	<i>(absent)</i>

Others in attendance

Organization	Name
City of Boston	Rory Cuddyer
TNC	Roxanne Zak
TNC	Sarah Jackson
TNC	Hugh Cipparone
MAPC	Cammy Peterson
MAPC	Darci Schofield
Massachusetts Hydrogen Coalition	Charles Myers
MA Executive Office of Energy & Environmental Affairs (EEA)	Kathleen Theoharides, Assistant Secretary of Climate Change
EEA	Dan Sieger, Assistant Secretary of Environment
EEA	Hong-Hanh Chu
EEA	Ben Miller
EEA	Kurt Gaertner
EEA	Tori Kim
EEA	Jennifer Sulla
EEA	Eva Murray
MA Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP)	Martin Suuberg, Commissioner
MassDEP	Christine Kirby
MassDEP	Sharon Weber
MA Department of Energy Resources (DOER)	Joanna Troy
DOER	Paul Holloway
DOER	Marian Swain
MA Department of Public Utilities (DPU)	Kate Tohme
MassGIS	Neil MacGaffey

